

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01301 061432Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----035991 061441Z /42

O 061339Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0903
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONODN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PQI

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1301

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, USNC, PLO, IS, LE, FR
SUBJECT: UNIFIL DEVELOPMENTS, MAY 6

UN SOURCE INFORMED US MAY 6 THAT NIGERIANS PLANNED TO COMMENCE
AIRLIFT FROM LAGOS OF FIRST ELEMENTS OF ITS BATTALION ON MAY 5
AND THAT ALL
BATTALION EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THROUGH BEIRUT WITHIN
NEXT WEEK OR SO. WITH EXPECTED RETURN OF SWEDISH AND IRANIAN
CONTINGENTS TO UNEF AND UNDOF RESPECTIVELY AS OF MAY 15, UNIFIL WILL
DEPLOY NIGERIANS TO CENTRAL AREAS OF FRONT AROUND AKIYA BRIDGE
AREA.

UNNY HAS INFORMED UNIFIL THAT IRISH ADVANCE PARTY COMING TO UNIFIL
IN NEAR FUTURE TO PLAN IRISH MOVEMENT AND DEPLOYMENT. ALSO, UNNY WILL

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BE TALKING TO FIJIANS AND IRANIANS IN NEW YORK CONCERNING
THEIR PLANS FOR JOINING UNIFIL.

REGARDING FRENCH AND SENEGALESE POSSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT
AROUND TYRE, SOURCE SAYS THAT ERSKINE CONSIDERS UNNY, WHILE
STRESSING POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MAINTAINING A PRESENCE IN
TYRE, HAS GIVEN HIM ENOUGH LEEWAY TO MAKE DECISION ON MILITARY

GROUND. HE IS MEETING WITH BOTH BATTALION COMMANDERS MAY 6 IN SOUTH LEBANON AND SOURCE EXPECTS HIM TO DECIDE IN NEXT DAY OR SO WHETHER TO STAY ON IN TYRE.

AS TO UNFIL'S REQUEST FOR MORE HEAVY EQUIPMENT, SOURCE SHOWED ME TEXT OF UNNY'S REPLY TO ERSKINE'S MAY 4 MESSAGE (JERUSALEM 1293) WHICH REFLECTS NEW YORK'S THINKING ON LIMITS OF UNIFIL'S ROLE.

BEGIN TEXT

"I FULLY UNDERTSAND DESIRE TO HAVE ADEQUATE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT IT IS REALISTIC TO SUPPOSE THAT UNIFIL CAN FULFILL ITS TASK BY HAVING AND USING HEAVIER WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT THAN THOSE OF THE VARIOUS ARMED ELEMENTS IN THE AREA. AS YOU KNOW, A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE OPERATING ON THE VERY DELICATE POLITICAL BALANCE ON WHICH UNIFIL IS OPERATING, CANNOT FULFILL ITS MANDATE BY CONFRONTATION AND DELIBERATE TRIALS OF MILITARY STRENGTH. IT CAN ONLY HOPE TO SUCCEED BY FIRMNESS COMBINED WITH NEGOTIATION AND CO-OPERATION. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL CONCERNED SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE GOING BEYUND THE SELF-DEFENCE CONCEPT OF THE USE OF FORCE. IN BOTH CLOSED AND OPEN SESSIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL, SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED OF CONSEQUENCES OF ANY SUCH COURSE. THE DECISION TO CHANGE THE MANDATE OF THE FORCE CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL, SINCE IN THIS CASE IT WOULD IN EFFECT MOVE UNIFIL AWAY FROM THE PEACE-SECRET

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KEEPING CONCEPT INTO AN ENFORCEMENT CONCEPT, A STEP ON WHICH THE COUNCIL IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL CERTAINLY NOT AGREE. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT INCOMING CONTINGENTS ARE ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED AND ARMED BOTH FOR THEIR TASK AND FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE URGENTLY EXPLORING THE PROVISION AND BEST USE OF APCS. I FULLY APPRECIATE FIRM HANDLING OF RECENT INCIDENTS ON BASIS OF AN INTERPRETATION OF THE USE OF FORCE IN SELF-DEFENCE. I REALIZE LIMITATIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THIS BASIS, BUT THEY HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED IF UNIFIL IS TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL SUPPORT TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS." END TEXT.
KRUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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